
Introduced by Senator Block
(Coauthors: Senators Correa, De León, Leno, and Steinberg)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Brown, Hall, and
Maienschein)

April 1, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 28, as introduced, Block. California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

This measure would declare May 6, 2013, to May 12, 2013, inclusive, and the first full week of May of every year thereafter, commencing with a Monday, as California Mental Health No Stigma Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the state to increase
2 awareness regarding the negative stigma associated with mental
3 illness; and
4 WHEREAS, Stigma is a very real problem for people who have
5 a mental illness; and
6 WHEREAS, Every person needs and deserves to feel a sense
7 of belonging, and not be excluded or ostracized; and
8 WHEREAS, The most formidable obstacle to future progress
9 in the area of mental health is stigma, and today, the nation has
10 the power to tear down that obstacle; and
11 WHEREAS, Throughout our great state, there are efforts by
12 public and private mental health agencies that work tirelessly to
13 educate the public about the harmful effects of stigma; and

1 WHEREAS, Some of the harmful effects of stigma include
2 trying to pretend nothing is wrong, refusal to seek treatment,
3 rejection by family and friends, work or school problems or
4 discrimination, difficulty finding housing, being subjected to
5 physical violence or harassment, and inadequate health insurance
6 coverage of mental illnesses; and

7 WHEREAS, Of California's approximately 36.8 million
8 residents, close to 1,175,000 adults live with a serious mental
9 illness and about 422,000 children live with serious mental health
10 conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, While one in five Americans lives with a mental
12 disorder, estimates indicate that nearly two-thirds of all people
13 with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment, especially
14 people from diverse communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Despite civil rights laws, such as the Americans
16 with Disabilities Act of 1990, people with mental illnesses often
17 experience discrimination in education, housing, health care, and
18 the workplace; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the California Mental Health Services
20 Oversight and Accountability Commission's report of 2007, a
21 public education campaign can improve the public's awareness of
22 unmet needs and reduce the harmful effects of stigma and
23 discrimination; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the week of
26 May 6, 2013, to May 12, 2013, inclusive, and the first full week
27 of May of every year thereafter, commencing with a Monday, as
28 California Mental Health No Stigma Week; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.